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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION
Washington 25, D. C.

May 26, 1944

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BRANCH
ADMINISTRATIVE LETTER NO. 5

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES SECTION

POSITION TITLES

Apparently some misinterpretation has resulted because of a recently-issued memorandum concerning adjective titles - such as "Junior", "Senior" or "Assistant" Marketing Specialist. Such adjectives are now - (for personnel purposes) - omitted and the numerical rating used - for example: "Assistant" Marketing Specialist becomes Marketing Specialist, Caf-7. This does not mean that a Caf-7 Marketing Specialist must use the designation "Caf-7" in signing correspondence or telegrams. John Doe, Marketing Specialist, is sufficient.

PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS

Many of our Field Offices have been disregarding instructions issued by this office in regard to the handling of personnel actions. Special attention is called to Branch Memorandum No. 5, issued July 15, 1943 - page 3 - "PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS" which reads as follows: "Prior approval from Washington must be secured before any personnel appointment can be initiated for any field office (station). Such approval will be granted by either the Chief, the Assistant Chief, or the Sr. Administrative Officer of the Branch. In submitting a request for an appointment it will be necessary to furnish the name of the proposed employee, grade, designation and where he is to be employed, and the approximate date of desired entrance on duty. After approval from Washington the request, along with Washington approval, should be submitted to the Regional Personnel Division for necessary processing of the action and subsequent encumbrance of funds. Any change in grade, or within grade promotion, must also have prior approval from Washington." All personnel actions must be cleared through this office and no exception will be made. This applies to all actions--those covering new appointments, changes in status, within-grade promotions and changes in official headquarters.

W. C. Hasbrouck
Administrative Officer

MARKET NEWS DIVISION

TEMPORARY FIELD STATION MARKET NEWS SERVICE

| STATIONS | IN CHARGE | PRODUCT | FIRST BULLETIN |
|---|---|---|---|
| Brawley, Calif. Planters Hotel Bldg. | J. A. Hunter | Carrots & Cants. | May 8 |
| Crystal Springs, Miss. City Hall | R. G. Risser | Cabbage & Misc. Vegs. | Apr. 28 |
| Charleston, S. C. | R. M. Fox | Potatoes | May 24 |
| Jacksonville, Tex. | L. N. Gillespie | Tomatoes | June 5 |
| Lakeland, Fla. Box 191 | H. F. Willson | Citrus | Oct. 18-1943 |
| Leesburg, Fla. Maine & Palmetto Sts. | R. M. Peterson | Watermelons | May 18 |
| Macon, Ga. | R. E. Keller | Peaches | May 29 |
| Onley, Va. Masonic Bldg. | S. W. Russell | Strawberries | May 15 |
| Washington, N. C. | R. M. Fox | Potatoes | June 5 |

Reports covering North Texas onion deal will be issued by the Fort Worth office beginning May 31.

C. D. Schoolcraft, Chief.

FRESH PRODUCTS STANDARDIZATION AND INSPECTION DIVISION

DESTINATION INSPECTIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA

There has been some confusion as to whether the Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh or New York City office should handle terminal inspections in certain cities in Pennsylvania. Our Harrisburg office located in the central portion of the State has only one man and he spends most of his time supervising shipping point inspection work. For that reason he cannot handle many of the destination inspection requests that might appear to be in his territory.

In order to avoid misunderstanding and to provide quicker service we have assigned the following towns to the offices indicated below and if requests are received by any of these inspectors in charge they will either handle them or refer them to one of the other offices:

Harrisburg - Carlisle, Lancaster, Pittsville, Williamsport, York.

Philadelphia - Pottstown, Reading.

Pittsburgh - Altoona, Johnstown.

New York City - Bethlehem, Easton, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre.

INSPECTION OF PRODUCE GROWN AT PENAL INSTITUTIONS

When requested, it is satisfactory to make Federal-State inspections, and issue Federal-State certificates, of any or all fruits and vegetables grown at penal institutions. This supersedes instructions in D.L. of November 8, 1935, which prohibited making inspections of such produce.

INSPECTION OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS FOR IMPORT TO CANADA

The Fruit, Vegetable, and Honey Act of Canada has an import regulation requiring that certain named products be Federal-State inspected by this Department before entry into Canada and carry a certificate bearing the following words "Meets Canadian Import Requirements."

Because of the shortage of inspectors in some areas it has been difficult for some shippers to obtain inspection at shipping point of carloads destined for Canada, so the Canadian authorities have called our attention to the fact that if U. S. inspection certification is not available the Canadian importer can obtain inspection at destination in Canada by the Canadian inspection service if our inspection supervisors wire to the Canadian importer that inspection service was not available at the point of shipment. Wires of this type should be sent collect.

Clause 4 of the Canadian Import Regulations reads as follows:
"Government inspection required by clauses 2 and 3 hereof may be obtained:

(a) where the shipment or movement originates; or

(b) if not obtainable where the shipment or movement originates, at a point intermediate to the Canadian frontier port of entry; or

(c) if not obtainable as provided in paragraphs (a) or (b) hereof, inspection under this Act may be obtained at the Canadian port of entry, if an inspection point."

If these regulations and instructions are not understood, supervisors should wire the Regional or Washington office for further clarification. If any supervising inspectors find it necessary to issue many wires of the above type on a particular commodity from one district, we desire a report as to why the inspection service at shipping point was not available.

CANADIAN IMPORT INSPECTIONS AT INTERMEDIATE POINTS

Inspections are occasionally requested at intermediate points like Kansas City, St. Louis and Chicago of carloads of produce destined for Canada which were not inspected at shipping point. These requests often cover commodities like lettuce or cauliflower that are difficult to inspect in transit because of body or top ice. In connection with such inspections, we were recently advised by the Canadian authorities that they are in agreement with us that any transit inspections of body and/or top iced loadings should be made only when our inspectors are satisfied that the inspection can be performed without in any degree hindering good delivery of the produce.

HANDBOOKS

The following handbooks have been sent to inspectors and if additional copies are desired, they may be requested from the Washington office:

1. Shipping Point Inspection Handbook for Strawberries, dated February, 1944.
2. Inspection of Tomato Plants, dated February, 1944.
3. Shipping Point Inspection Handbook for Northern Grown Onions, dated March, 1944.
4. Market Inspection Handbook for Bunched Carrots, dated April, 1944.
5. Market Inspection Handbook for Topped Carrots, dated May, 1944.

NOTES:

Samuel L. Ragusa recently reported for duty at San Francisco and Hector M. Woodward to Los Angeles to help with the greatly increased inspection of supplies for steamships operated by the War Shipping Administration.

Charles D. Shirley has improved sufficiently from his recent illness to permit his handling of inspections at Houston alone.

R. M. Ferguson has moved from Houston to Fort Worth and will be in charge of inspection work there, at least for the present.

Charles S. Lowthorp has left Fort Worth and is now at Oklahoma City handling the terminal inspections there temporarily while R. B. Landrum is in the field supervising shipping point inspection of strawberries in Missouri and fruits and vegetables in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

H. M. Riley of Winter Haven, Florida opened the seasonal shipping point peach inspection office at Macon, Georgia, May 20.

William C. Curry, who reported last month at Honolulu to handle inspections of deliveries to the Navy there, reported a very heavy tonnage examined during his first month. It is evident that he will be much busier than we had expected. He is in Building 476 of the Navy Supply Depot at Pearl Harbor, T. H.

H. N. Renfro finished with Nebraska-Wyoming potatoes and will furnish relief at various markets while the men take some annual leave. He is now at Detroit relieving P. T. Baden, who is on annual leave until June 7.

Edgar Krumm is transferring from Chicago to Philadelphia to handle inspections for the Navy there. He replaces Thomas L. Kelly who has retired after many years with the inspection service.

Add the name of H. T. Westcott (Collaborator), Raleigh, N. C. on the Receiving Point Office address list dated September 1, 1943.

Temporary Seasonal Shipping Point Offices

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alabama (Potatoes) | T. W. Ayres | Federal-State Inspection Service, Masonic Hall Bldg., Foley, Ala. Mail: P. O. Box 338. Tel. 203. |
| Georgia (Peaches) | H. M. Riley | 502 Grand Bldg., Macon, Ga. Mail: P. O. Box 1157. Tel. 7733 |
| Mississippi (Cabbage) | K. W. Schaible | Federal-State Inspection Service Crystal Springs, Miss. Mail: P. O. Box 232 |
| Tennessee (Cabbage and Strawberries) | E. L. Biddick | Federal-State Inspection Service, Humboldt, Tennessee. |

E. E. Conklin, Chief.

FRESH MARKETING DIVISION

CLAIMS BY SHIPPERS FOR ADJUSTMENT ON PRODUCTS PACKED IN USED CONTAINERS

A meeting was held May 16 to discuss the current situation in regard to claims filed by shippers for adjustment on products packed in used containers, and the desirable policy to be followed by public agencies in this regard. The meeting was sponsored by this Division and was attended by Messrs. Bowling, Pease and Johnson of the Transportation Division of the Marketing Facilities Branch, F. G. Robb, L. Carey and J. H. Heckman of this Branch, Gorden Stedman of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association, and John Van Arnum of the National League of Wholesale Fruit and Vegetable Distributors.

A number of situations has been reported recently in regard to action on claims of various agencies. It was, therefore, decided to hold this meeting, consider the various factors, and determine desirable procedure.

It was developed that Mr. Dietrick, of the Claims Division of the Association of American Railroads had stated claims would not be discounted merely because the product was packed in used containers. However, for several weeks the RPIA inspectors have been noting on invoices that the shipment was in used containers. The idea was suggested that, at least in some instances, the term "unsuitable packages" was also included in the notation. Therefore- irrespective of the policy of the Claims Division of the Association of American Railroads, these notations would have quite an effect on a claim agent in handling a claim. It was also brought out that both the Illinois Central and the Pennsylvania Railroads had made unofficial statements to the effect that claims involving shipments in used containers would not be allowed.

It was decided the first thing necessary to determine procedure would be to secure a definite statement of policy along this line from each of the four institutions. As stated, these are the Claims Division of the American Association of Railroads, the RPIA and the Illinois Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. It was agreed that attempts would be made by Mr. Stedman and Mr. Van Arnum to secure these statements. When these statements of policy are secured, another meeting of the group will be held. It is intended to follow this closely as a general disallowance of claims merely on the basis of used containers would greatly effect the used container program and the whole fruit and vegetable industry.

Carl G. Wooster, Chief.

## PROCESSED MARKETING DIVISION

POTATO DIVERSION

Surplus early potatoes from the Southeastern States, Louisiana and California, are being diverted into stock feed. Arrangements have been made with sugar beet plants and apple drying plants to process these potatoes. Potatoes are being purchased by the Office of Distribution and delivered to processing plants. The Offic of Distribution is arranging for the sale of material which is processed by the sugar beet plants and the apple drying plants are making their own arrangements for the sale of the finished product. A ready market exists for the dried product due to the shortage of corn and, in most instances, local feed dealers are purchasing the entire output of these plants to supply local feed requirements. Every effort is being made to provide processing outlets for these surplus potatoes. Since May 10, 1944, when this program was initiated, approximately 241 cars of raw potatoes have been diverted through these channels. This program follows the general lines of the Commodity Credit Corporation program which has been operating during the past season for late crop potatoes.

WAR FOOD ORDER 22.6

WFO 22.6 is in process of being amended. The amendment as a whole provides for an increase in the amount of fruit to be set aside from the 1944 pack. There is a slight decrease in the amounts to be set aside from the 1944 pack of vegetables.

It is indicated in the Order that the Government expects to purchase both the specific and contingency reserves of fruits. However, the contingency reserve may or may not be purchased in part or all.

The order includes a new item, namely, sauerkraut.

The authority for issuing the amendment has been granted and the final draft of the order, Solicitor's opinion and the accompanying memorandum are expected to be completed not later than May 29.

A few non-compliance reports are being received which are being forwarded to Enforcement Section with appropriate recommendations.

John E. Dodds, Chief.